



## Washington State Legislature

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Mr. Paul Caruselle  
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Mr. Mike Curry  
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Ms. Karen Hays  
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Mr. Frank Holmes  
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Mr. Frederic C. Lejeune, CSP  
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Mr. Mike Moore  
World Trade Center  
2200 Alaskan Way, Suite 160  
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Maritime Industry Leaders:

We are writing to emphasize the importance of your efforts to jointly fund an emergency response tug at Neah Bay by July 1, 2010. The tug is vital to help ensure that Washington maintains an excellent maritime safety record and effective environmental safeguards.

Thank you for submitting progress reports to the legislature regarding cost apportionment negotiations and for providing the Department of Ecology with updates to your oil spill contingency plans, as required by the recent emergency response tug legislation (ESSB 5344). We are very pleased that you have met the intent of the legislation to this point.

As you know, the next important requirement set by ESSB 5344 is the July 1, 2010, deadline for covered vessels to fund and station a capable tug at Neah Bay. We appreciate that cost apportionment negotiations have been challenging--and we congratulate you on the progress you've reportedly made thus far. It is, however, essential that the deadline be met. Should there be any delay, the Department of Ecology has full authority to take action to compel compliance, as described in the attached letter. We will fully support this action by Ecology if the deadline is not met.

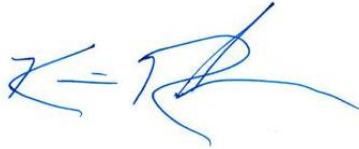
We look forward to hearing that you have finalized an equitable cost apportionment agreement.

We are confident you will continue to be invaluable partners in ensuring that Washington maintains strong maritime safety and environmental standards. Thank you for your important contributions to that effort.

Sincerely,



Phil Rockefeller  
State Senator  
23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Kevin Ranker  
State Senator  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Kevin Van de Wege  
State Representative  
24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Attachment: November 19, 2009 letter from Washington Department of Ecology to Oil Spill  
Contingency Plan Holders

cc:

Hon. Chris Gregoire, Governor, Washington State  
Hon. Lisa Brown, Majority Leader, Washington State Senate  
Hon. Frank Chopp, Speaker, Washington State House of Representatives  
Mr. Dale Jensen, Director, Washington Dept. of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response  
Program